

Appl. No.: 10/820,214
Amdt. dated 01/31/2006
Reply to Office action of August 3, 2005

REMARKS

This correspondence is in response to the Final Office Action mailed August 3, 2005 in which Claims 1, 3, 6-8, 10, 11, 13-15, 19, 29, 31-37, 39 and 41 were rejected and Claims 2, 4, 9, 12, 16-18, 20-28, 30 and 40 are objected to. A notice of appeal is being filed concurrently with this amendment to provide sufficient time for the Examiner to consider and enter this amendment. It is respectfully submitted that in light of the arguments, the application is now in condition for allowance.

The Final Office Action rejected Claims 1, 3, 10, 11, 13-15, 19 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,490,502 to Fellows et al. Claims 31-36 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,640,159 to Holmes et al. Claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fellows. Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fellows et al. in view of US Patent No. 6,470,234 to McGrady. Claims 37, 29 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holmes et al. in view of US Patent No. 6,151,536 to Arnold et al.

Claims 2, 4, 9, 12, 16-18, 20-28, 30 and 40 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have therefore amended Claims 2, 4, 9, 12, 16-18, 20-28, 30 and 40 to incorporate all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Further, Applicants have amended Claims 3, 6-8, 10, 11, 13-15, 19 and 29 to be dependent on claims that are indicated to be allowable. Applicants have cancelled Claims 1, 31-37, 39 and 41, thus rendering the remaining rejections moot.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the Claims of the present application are in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued in due course. Examiner Tran is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

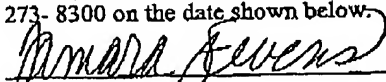


Brian J. Teague
Registration No. 55,670

Customer No. 00826
ALSTON & BIRD LLP
Bank of America Plaza
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000
Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000
Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111

CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Fax No. (571) 273- 8300 on the date shown below.


Tamara Stevens


Date